

House Resolution 139

By: Representative Rynders of the 152nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the importance of Georgia's community health centers and designating February
2 3, 2005, as "Community Health Centers Day"; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, federally funded community health centers located in 94 medically underserved
4 communities provide high quality primary and preventative health care to over 221,000
5 people in the State of Georgia, including the working poor, uninsured, underinsured, elderly,
6 homeless, immigrants, and other vulnerable populations without regard to income status,
7 cultural or ethnic heritage, or disease conditions; and

8 WHEREAS, the health centers bring over \$25 million federal dollars per year to Georgia
9 communities, recruit and retain excellent health care professionals where they are most
10 needed, and offer access to a wide range of cost-effective medical and dental services and
11 prescription medicines as well as health education, nutrition counseling, translation,
12 community outreach, transportation, and support programs; and

13 WHEREAS, community health centers have a track record of over three decades of
14 controlling costs, their cost effectiveness having been documented in several studies which
15 show that rates of emergency room visits and hospitalization are much lower among health
16 center patients than patients of other providers, including a Kaiser Foundation study which
17 shows that community health centers in Georgia save the state Medicaid program at least
18 \$14.4 million per year for care provided to Medicaid patients; and

19 WHEREAS, the community health centers work in partnership with other health care
20 providers, local hospitals, health departments, social service agencies, and health related
21 supportive services to maximize resources and assure that services are coordinated to
22 improve the health status of the community; and

23 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has made expansion of community health centers
24 to new communities nationwide a hallmark of his health care agenda and has proposed

1 doubling the federal investment in health centers over a five-year period, providing the
2 opportunity for expansion of health center services in Georgia; and

3 WHEREAS, Georgia's community health centers and their state organization, the Georgia
4 Association for Primary Health Care, support the president's expansion goals and have taken
5 a leadership role in helping to resolve the state's health care access problems, utilize the latest
6 technology, assure continuous quality improvement, and reduce health care disparities among
7 the underserved through participation in the national health disparity collaboratives; and

8 WHEREAS, the community health centers deserve commendation for their valuable
9 contributions in expanding access to health care and their outstanding record of service and
10 dedication to improving the health care and health status of all Georgians.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
12 the members of this body recognize the importance of Georgia's community health centers
13 and designate February 3, 2005, as "Community Health Centers Day."

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
15 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Association for
16 Primary Health Care.